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REMARKS

Claims 1-5 were originally presented in the subject application. Claims 1-5 were amended and claim 6 added in a Preliminary Amendment filed with the present application. Claim 7 was added in an Amendment and Response dated February 5, 2004, and claims 8-31 added in a Supplemental Amendment and Response dated March 25, 2004. No claims have herein been amended or canceled. Therefore, claims 1-31 remain in this case.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the ground of rejection.

Double Patenting

The Office Action rejected claims 1-7 and 14 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-14 of U.S. Patent No. 6,026,426. In response, Applicants include herewith a terminal disclaimer over U.S. Patent No. 6,026,426, which is commonly owned by the assignee of this application.

The Office Action also rejected claims 8-31 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-27 of U.S. Patent No. 6,052,712. In response, Applicants include herewith a terminal disclaimer over U.S. Patent No. 6,052,712, which is commonly owned by the assignee of this application.

The Office Action also rejected claims 8-31 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 3-27 of U.S. Patent No. 5,768,538. In response, Applicants include herewith a terminal disclaimer over U.S. Patent No. 5,768,538, which is commonly owned by the assignee of this application.

Therefore, Applicants submit that the above-noted double patenting rejections are overcome.

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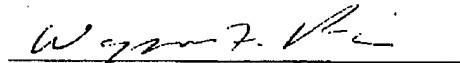
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CONCLUSION

For all the above reasons, Applicants maintain that the claims of the subject application define patentable subject matter and earnestly requests allowance of claims 1-31.

If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, Applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,



Wayne F. Reinke
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No.: 36,650

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HESLIN ROTHENBERG FARLEY & MESITI P.C.
5 Columbia Circle
Albany, New York 12203-5160
Telephone: (518) 452-5600
Facsimile: (518) 452-5579